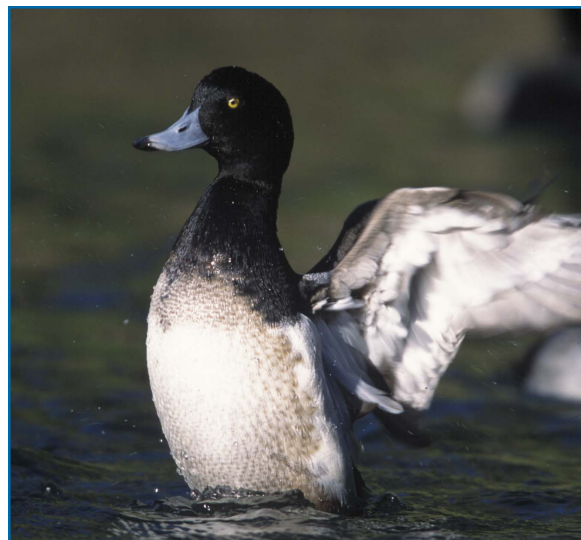


**T**he North American Waterfowl Management Plan Committee's Continental Assessment Steering Committee (Steering Committee) continues to advance the first continent-wide assessment of the Plan's goals and accomplishments. With 21 individual assessment interviews now completed and more than 600 pages of information and input gathered from the joint ventures, flyway councils, and other partners throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico, the Steering Committee will now turn its attention to preparing a draft report for the Plan Committee.

### The Premise

The need for a continental assessment was a major finding of the *Plan's 2004 Strategic Guidance: Strengthening the Biological*

### Continental Assessment Update



Scaup/Gary Kramer, USFWS

## North American Waterfowl Management Plan

**Foundation.** In response, every aspect of waterfowl conservation under the Plan is being investigated, from the latest advances in waterfowl biology to the planning, implementation, and evaluation techniques used by partnerships to "put waterfowl habitat on the ground." An assessment of this nature is necessary to identify the Plan's top priorities for the future and to guide partners' efforts. The Steering Committee's report will also reevaluate the resources needed to fulfill the Plan's vision.

### The Process

**April 2005:** Steering Committee met for the first time and worked through the summer finalizing a standard set of assessment questions for joint venture representatives to answer in advance of upcoming interviews.

**June 2005:** Pilot assessment meetings were held with three of the U.S. joint ventures.

**August 2005:** A separate set of questions was developed from a population- and harvest-management perspective for the four flyway councils to answer.

**September-December 2005:** Meetings were held with U.S. and Canadian joint venture representatives and Mexican partners to discuss their responses to the questions and to gather more assessment information.

**Early 2006:** Input was received from the four flyway councils based on their responses to the customized assessment questions.

**February 2006:** Steering Committee met with the NAWMP/AHM Joint Task Group (charged with clarifying Plan population objectives and their use in harvest management) to incorporate the group's deliberations in the assessment process. Also this month, the Steering Committee began collating and synthesizing all information gathered to date.

**June 2006:** Steering Committee will present a draft report to the Plan Committee for review and feedback.

**August 2006:** Steering Committee will prepare a final draft of the report to circulate to all Plan partners for review and consultation.

### The Steering Committee

The continental assessment's comprehensive analysis is being conducted by a group of preeminent waterfowl and habitat scientists from across North America, representing federal, state, and provincial wildlife agencies; universities; and private-sector conservation organizations.

## Steering Committee Members

**Dr. Ken Abraham,**  
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources  
**Dr. Mike Anderson,**  
Ducks Unlimited Canada  
**Mr. Humberto Berlanga,**  
Mexico's National Biodiversity Commission (CONABIO)  
**Mr. Richard Bishop,**  
U.S. Plan Committee and (retired) Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
**Dr. Eduardo Carrera,**  
Ducks Unlimited of Mexico and Mexican Plan Committee  
**Dr. Bob Clark,**  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
**Mr. Lorne Colpitts,**  
Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation  
**Mr. Ariel Rojo Curiel,**  
Mexico's Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT)  
**Dr. John Eadie,**  
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**Dr. Mark Petrie,**  
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**Dr. Eric Reed,**  
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**Dr. Frank Rohwer,**  
Louisiana State University and Delta Waterfowl  
**Dr. Mike Tome,**  
U.S. Geological Survey-Cooperative Research Units Program

## Plan Committee Members

**David Smith,** U.S. Cochair  
**Steve Wendt,** Canadian Cochair  
**Felipe Ramírez Ruiz de Velasco,** Mexican Cochair  
**Michael Anderson,** Canada  
**Ian Barnett,** Canada  
**Richard Bishop,** United States  
**Eglatina Canales,** Mexico  
**Eduardo Carrera González,** Mexico  
**John Frampton,** United States  
**Bill Gummer,** Canada  
**Eldridge "Red" Hunt,** United States  
**Joe Kramer,** United States  
**Julio Alberto Carrera Lopez,** Mexico  
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